

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 2008

SWAC Members

Mark Glazer, Chair
David Frank
Mimi Guernica

Odell Hall
Marcia Harrington
Lee Levine

Marcia Marks
Amy Schaffer
Craig Simoneau

Absent: L. Alexander and E. Harris

County Staff

Bill Davidson, DSWS
Peter Karasik, DSWS

Maureen O'Hara, DSWS

Guests

Peter Hartwell, Covanta
Kazuko Mori
Wendy Strongin

The regular meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was called to order by the Chair at 7:35 p.m. on January 8, 2008, in the Executive Office Building's Lobby Level Auditorium. Introductions were made. The Chair thanked Amy Schaffer for her nearly eight years of service to swac. Ms. Schaffer was presented with a certificate from the Office of the County Executive and a statue from the Division of Solid Waste Services (DSWS).

OLD BUSINESS

Meeting Minutes – The minutes of the November 6, 2007, were approved as corrected.

Subcommittee/Ad Hoc Group Reports – No subcommittees and ad hoc groups met since the last meeting.

Status of Recruiting New SWAC Members – The Nominating Committee met individually with 13 applicants in December and their recommendations have been forwarded to the County Executive's Office.

County Council Report – The Report was emailed to SWAC members on January 7, 2008.

MAJOR PROGRAM TOPIC

Mr. Karasik, Chief of the Central Operations Section, DSWS, briefed members on the County's yard trim program.

- If the Gude Yard Trim Processing Facility is built, approximately 20 percent of the Transfer Station's current traffic will be redirected to it. Doing this will extend the life of the Transfer Station by 5 to 10 years. Mr. Karasik discussed the current programs that are managed at the Transfer Station, including receipt and

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processing of a large portion of the leaves from fall leaf collection, grinding of all natural wood waste received to create mulch which is given away to residents and sold to commercial entities, and processing of leaves and grass and shipment of this material to the Dickerson Compost Facility for composting and the production of Leafgro. Revenues from the sale of mulch and Leafgro partially offset yard waste management costs.

- Bar graphs of the Compost Facility's cumulative incoming yard trim for FY05 – FY08 YTD (Attachment 1) and Yard Waste: Historical Sources and Disposition (Attachment 2) were distributed.
- In FY07, DSWS distributed 2,374 compost bins. [NOTE: With further increased outreach, education, and training on grasscycling and composting in FY08, DSWS has distributed 2,904 compost bins in just the first half of FY08 (thru 12/31/07.)
- Questions raised by SWAC members: What grasscycling and composting education has DSWS done in the past, and what additional education will it do this fiscal year? What educational materials are sent to home owner associations and residents? How long has grasscycling and composting education been in place? Has it helped reduce the volume so far?
- A motion was made (Schaffer) and seconded (Harrington) to empower the chair to write a letter to the County Council's Transportation & Environment Committee recommending that the County develop a planned approach to sufficiently reduce the volume of yard trim received at the Transfer Station to ensure the total is less than the Compost Facility's cap of 77,000 per fiscal year. SWAC recommends increased education, outreach, and training to accomplish this. However, in the event there efforts are insufficient to accomplish this goal, it could include banning grass clippings in curbside collection of yard trim. VOTE: Unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

- A list of standing subcommittees was sent around. Members were asked to list their first, second, and third choice of a subcommittee to serve on.
- SWAC's annual meeting with the County Executive is scheduled for 8:30 p.m. on Monday, February 11. SWAC's chair and two members usually attend. In 2007 SWAC addressed the 77,000 ton cap at the Compost Facility, MCPS recycling, SWAC's FY08 budget priorities, and multi-family and nonresidential recycling. Mses. Harrington and Marks expressed an interest in attending the meeting. Possible topics to address in February: reiterate the need to keep people informed about what they can recycle, support the Gude Yard Trim Processing Facility, and MCPS recycling. Topics will be discussed further at the February 5 SWAC meeting.
- C&D Waste Ad Hoc Group was formed in 2007; four members of the group are still on the Committee (Alexander, Frank, Hall, and Levine). This subject is the major program topic at SWAC's October 7, 2008, meeting. In the interim, if DSWS

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needs to make SWAC aware of an issue or an issue is raised by a member, the whole Committee will discuss it and decide if the ad hoc group should meet.

- The County is continuously looking at what plastics have a market for recycling; i.e. how much revenue will the County receive and what is the cost to do it, i.e. modifications required at the Recycling Center to accommodate the new product(s).
- Members recommended DSWS promote using recyclable containers and encourage residents to drink tap water in lieu of bottled water.
- Ms. Marks asked that an editorial from the November 28, 2007, Washington Times written by Jane Hunter on the RRF be sent to all members (sent via email January 11) (Attachment 3) and she distributed an article, *Garbage in, garbage out* from the July/August 2006 edition of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists (Attachment 4).
- Ms. Guernica announced that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency launched a cell phone recycling program today.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Strongin thanked SWAC members for their hard work.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Attachments (4)

ACRONYMS

C&D	Construction and Demolition
DSWS	Division of Solid Waste Services
FY	Fiscal Year
MCPS	Montgomery County Public Schools
RRF	Resource Recovery Facility
SWAC	Solid Waste Advisory Committee
YTD	Year to date

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SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE															
2007 ATTENDANCE															
	J A N	F E B	M A R	A P R	M A Y	J U N	J U L	A U G	S E P	O C T	N O V	D E C	Absences In Last 12 Months		
Alexander, Leslie									X	X	X				
Faul-Zeitler, Bobbie		X	X		X	X			X	X	X		-1		
Frank, David			X		X	X			X	X	X		-1		
Glazer, Mark		X	X			X			X	X	X		-1		
Guernica, Mimi									X	X			-1		
Hall, Odell		X			X	X			X	X			-2		
Harrington, Marcia									X	X	X				
Harris, Earl		X	X		X	X					X		-2		
Levine, Lee		X	X			X			X		X		-2		
Marks, Marcia									X	X	X				
Schaffer, Amy		X	X			X			X		X		-2		
Simoneau, Craig		X	X		X	X			X	X	X				

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE															
2008 ATTENDANCE															
	J A N	F E B	M A R	A P R	M A Y	J U N	J U L	A U G	S E P	O C T	N O V	D E C	Absences In Last 12 Months		
Alexander, Leslie													-1		
Frank, David	X												-1		
Glazer, Mark	X												-1		
Guernica, Mimi	X												-1		
Hall, Odell	X												-2		
Harrington, Marcia	X														
Harris, Earl													-3		
Levine, Lee	X												-2		
Marks, Marcia	X														
Schaffer, Amy	X												-2		
Simoneau, Craig	X														